

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are pending in the present application.  
Claim 10 has been added.

Entry of the above amendments is earnestly solicited.  
An early and favorable first action on the merits is earnestly  
requested.

Should there be any matters that need to be resolved in  
the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested  
to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes  
made to the claims and Abstract by the current amendment. The  
attached page is captioned "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES  
MADE."

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this,  
concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any  
overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional  
fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE:

The Abstract of the Disclosure has been amended as follows:

A B S T R A C T

MEANS FOR HOLDING TWO PIECES IN POSITION RELATIVE TO EACH OTHER

The invention provides means **members** for holding two pieces in position that are to be moved towards each other along at least two extreme coplanar docking directions that form a docking angle between them, the holding means **members** comprises firstly at least a male and a female V (19, 20) each provided with means **elements** for fixing to a respective one of the pieces so that each V is centered substantially on a direction parallel to the bisector of the docking angle and the female V possessing an inlet portion having an aperture angle not less than the docking angle, and secondly means **elements** (23, 24) for pressing the male V against the female V along said **the** bisector. The invention also provides apparatus for assembling pieces of bodywork and incorporating such means.

~~Translation of the title and the abstract as they were when originally filed by the Applicant. No account has been taken of any changes that may have been made subsequently by the PCT Authorities acting ex officio, e.g. under PCT Rules 37.2, 38.2, and/or 48.3.~~

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims have been amended as follows:

1/ Means for holding two pieces in position that are to be moved towards each other along at least two extreme coplanar docking directions (D1, D2) that form a docking angle ( $\beta$ ) between them, the position-holding means being characterized in that it comprises comprising firstly at least a male and a female V (19, 20) each provided with means for fixing to a respective one of the pieces so that each V is centered substantially on a direction parallel to the bisector of the docking angle, the female V possessing an inlet portion (20.1) having an aperture angle ( $\alpha_1$ ,  $\alpha$ ) not less than the docking angle, and secondly means (23, 24) for pressing the male V against the female V along said bisector.

2/ Position-holding means according to claim 1, characterized in that wherein the Vs (19, 20) have aperture angles ( $\alpha$ ) that are substantially equal and greater than the docking angle ( $\beta$ ).

3/ Position-holding means according to claim 2, characterized in that wherein for a docking angle ( $\beta$ ) of about  $90^\circ$ , the aperture angles ( $\alpha$ ) of the Vs (19, 20) are equal to about  $120^\circ$ .

4/ Position-holding means according to claim 1, characterized in that wherein the female V (20) possesses an end portion (20.2) having an aperture angle ( $\alpha_2$ ) substantially equal to the aperture angle of the male V (19) which is not less than the docking angle ( $\beta$ ), and in that wherein the aperture angle ( $\alpha_1$ ) of the inlet portion (20.1) of the female V is greater than the aperture angle ( $\alpha_2$ ) of the end portion (20.2) thereof.

5/ Position-holding means according to claim 4, characterized in that wherein, for a docking angle ( $\beta$ ) substantially equal to  $90^\circ$ , the aperture angle ( $\alpha_2$ ) of

the male V and of the end portion (20.2) of the female V (20) is substantially equal to  $90^\circ$ , and the aperture angle ( $\alpha_1$ ) of the inlet portion (20.1) of the female V (20) is substantially equal to  $120^\circ$ .

6/ Position-holding means according to ~~any one of~~ claims 1 to 5, characterized in that wherein the means for pressing the Vs together comprise a peg (23) projecting from the male V (19) symmetrically relative thereto so as to be inserted into an elongate slot (22) formed in the female V (20) and having a major axis contained in the plane of the docking direction, at least one jaw (24) being movably mounted on the peg (23) to be actuated between an active position in which it forms an abutment for a rear face (26) of the female V facing away from the male V, and an inactive position in which it is retracted and allows the peg to pass freely through the slot of the female V.

7/ Apparatus for assembling bodywork, the apparatus comprising two side tools (14) supporting body sides (2) and a tool (11) extending transversely relative to the two side tools, ~~the apparatus being characterized in that it comprises~~ comprising means (18) according to ~~any~~ preceding claim 1 for holding the side tools and the transverse tool in position relative to one another, the transverse tool having at least two Vs (19) disposed symmetrically about a longitudinal axis of the bodywork and designed to co-operate with corresponding Vs (20) fixed to the side tools.

8/ Apparatus according to claim 7, ~~as dependent on claim 3 or claim 5,~~ characterized in that wherein for a docking angle ( $\beta$ ) of about  $90^\circ$ , the aperture angles ( $\alpha$ ) of the Vs (19, 20) are equal to about  $120^\circ$ , and wherein the bisector ( $b$ ) of the aperture angles ( $\alpha$ ) of the Vs (19, 20) forms an angle of about  $45^\circ$  with the longitudinal axis of the bodywork.

9/ Apparatus according to claim 7 or ~~claim 8~~,  
~~characterized in that wherein~~ the Vs secured to the  
transverse tool (11) are male Vs (19) and the Vs secured  
to the side tools (14) are female Vs (20).

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